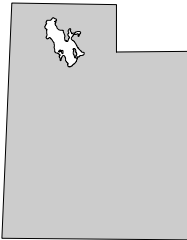


CHAPTER ONE

Utah. It's in the West, isn't it?



Most outsiders don't know that Utah has a metropolitan strip nearly 100 miles long that extends from a city called Ogden in the north, through Salt Lake City, to a city called Provo in the south. These metropolitan areas are so close to the mountains that it isn't unusual for deer and other wildlife to wander into the suburbs, especially during the winter months.

Yes, the Great Salt Lake is located near Salt Lake City, but there are no beach-front homes. Many members of the famous Osmond family live in the Provo area, and Robert Redford's Sundance Resort is up Provo Canyon. Hill Air Force Base, which employs thousands of Northern Utah residents, is between Salt Lake City and Ogden. Until the 1970s, Ogden was the second-largest city in Utah; it ranked 6th in 1998. Ogden has a newspaper called The Ogden Standard Examiner, Weber State University, and a relatively (for Utah) diverse population. The Provo area has a reputation as a "Little Silicon Valley" due to the expansion of its information technology industry. Brigham Young University, the United States' largest private university on a single campus, is on the east side of Provo.

salt lake city

Salt Lake City is surrounded by many smaller cities--a rapidly growing suburbia. The University of Utah is in the northeastern corner of the city; Salt Lake Community College is in a suburb to the west.

Internationally renowned ski resorts are in the Wasatch Mountains about a 30-minute drive from the city. The two major daily newspapers are The Salt Lake Tribune and The Deseret News.

Salt Lake City has an NBA basketball team, a “Triple A” baseball team, and a pro hockey team. Although Salt Lake City is smaller than many other metropolitan areas in the nation, it has a symphony, a repertory dance company, a ballet company, an opera company, and several acting companies. It also features a busy international airport only ten minutes from downtown.

A two-county area in the southwestern corner of Utah has experienced very rapid growth in recent years; the largest cities in this area are St. George and Cedar City. St. George is heralded as a retirees’ paradise, and Cedar City has become a popular destination for medium-sized companies relocating from California. There are some breathtaking tourist attractions in this area, among them are Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks. Dixie College is in St. George and Southern Utah University is in Cedar City. Golf is popular in St. George year-round because of the (usually) warm weather.

the recreation is easy

Utah is a great place for outdoor sports enthusiasts. It has 14 downhill and seven cross-country ski resorts, five national parks, eight national forests, two national recreation areas, seven national monuments, and 45 state parks. Park City, about 30 minutes east of Salt Lake, is a charming ski area that provides outdoor recreation year-round. Many adventurers find hiking, camping, and rock climbing in the Wasatch and Uinta mountains to be the ultimate challenge.

Moab, in southern Utah, is a popular place for mountain biking, hiking, and camping. Arches National Park is near Moab; its “Delicate Arch” is featured on Utah license plates. Lake Powell, a huge reservoir on the Colorado River, is a favorite southern Utah vacation spot for boating, water skiing, hiking, fishing, etc. Many other wonderful

recreation areas are scattered throughout the state; there is literally something for everyone. To some, most of Utah may seem like a barren desert, but it is truly a place of beauty and natural resources.

Many small cities and towns are scattered throughout the state, and they all have something special to offer. Vernal is known for its dinosaur skeleton exhibits (particularly popular following the film “Jurassic Park”), Tooele (no, not for its unusual name pronounced “Too-will-a”) for the nearby Bonneville Salt Flats, Park City/Sundance for their Sundance Film Festival each January, and Cedar City for its summer Shakespearian Festival. We cannot complete this very brief description of Utah without mentioning our northernmost city, Logan. Logan is known for its cheese, Utah State University, and its Antarctic winters (O.K., it’s a little warmer than Antarctica).

True to popular belief, many Utahns (about 70 percent) belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). The world headquarters of this church is located in downtown Salt Lake City along with the landmark Mormon Temple and the world famous Tabernacle Choir. However, non-Mormons are plentiful and a vital part of our culture. Utah thus possesses a substantial representation of most other religions.

cost of living

The cost of living in Utah is generally near the national average, but it does vary a little around the state. The Salt Lake City area is Utah’s economic hub. In the fourth quarter of 1999, its ACCRA cost of living index (which may be biased slightly upward for Utah’s metropolitan areas) stood at 6 percent above the national average. The housing index is moderately higher than the national average, thus pushing the overall cost-of-living upward.

A downturn in California’s economy during the early and mid-1990’s caused much out-migration from California to other Western states. Utah’s booming economy attracted some displaced Californians (and

others), swelling Utah’s in-migration, which in turn pushed up housing costs. In the late 1990s, a combination of a nationwide (especially California) economic recovery and a slowing of Utah’s economic growth has halted in-migration to Utah. This has stabilized Utah’s housing prices, slowing upward pressures on Salt Lake’s overall index.

Utah’s other metropolitan area, Provo-Orem, enjoys a cost of living slightly lower than the national average, as does Cedar City. And Logan and St. George match the U.S. average in cost of living. The preceding table compares Utah’s cities with selected western cities.

COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS

ACCRA Cost of Living Index - First Quarter 2000

Area	Composite	Groceries	Housing	Utilities
Salt Lake City, UT	102.5	114.0	103.2	76.1
Cedar City, UT (Nonmetro)	93.9	109.1	75.3	76.7
Provo-Orem, UT	104.4	111.7	106.5	80.5
St. George, UT (Nonmetro)	98.5	108.1	89.3	76.5
Phoenix, AZ	104.3	101.7	109.0	102.7
San Diego, CA	125.1	123.7	152.5	127.5
Denver, CO	107.9	111.3	122.8	85.7
Atlanta, GA	102.3	104.3	103.7	100.5
Boston, MA	136.3	112.6	188.3	130.3
Boise, ID	100.3	98.7	110.4	76.5
Albuquerque, NM	99.3	103.4	99.2	99.0
Las Vegas, NV	106.9	112.2	107.1	87.3
Portland, OR	107.0	105.3	111.0	80.9
Cleveland, OH	108.1	108.3	104.5	128.1
Philadelphia, PA	121.1	106.1	148.3	131.0
Dallas, TX	99.1	99.2	95.0	107.2

Source: American Chamber of Commerce Research Association.

taxes

Utah's state and local sales and use taxes are the largest source of revenue for state and local governments. Utah's combined business and household tax burdens are 11.5 percent of total personal income.

Gross taxable sales increased by 5.9 percent during 1999. Retail trade transactions account for 54 percent of all taxable sales, and this category experienced a 7-percent year-over rise. The global economic difficulties of 1998 and 1999 resulted in a drop in demand for goods manufactured in Utah. Thus, manufacturing suffered a 5.9-percent drop in sales. Wholesale trade sales have recently seen wide fluctuations from year to year. The 1999 increase was 2.0 percent, far slower than 1998's 10.5-percent growth.

state spending

During the 1999 legislative session the Utah legislature appropriated \$6.2 billion for Utah's budget. Public and higher education account for 45 percent of this total, the largest chunk of state spending.

Because of Utah's on-going economic growth, officials and planners in state and local governments must continually deal with growth-related issues, such as improving highways and public transportation, water and sewerage needs, and land-use planning. In addition, there are the sometimes contradictory economic development and quality of life requirements. In short, there are many demands on limited funding, and the leaders in the State of Utah must continually make difficult choices.

travel & tourism

Travel/tourism is an important industry in Utah. An estimated 18 million visitors traveled to Utah during 1999, spending about \$4.2 billion. This spending generated \$336 million in taxes for state and local governments and provided about 120,000 direct and indirect tourism-related jobs in the state. This industry is expected to grow as in anticipation of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, to be hosted by several cities in Northern Utah.

lay of the land

Utah can be divided into three distinctive physiographic provinces. The Colorado Plateau underlies about one-half of the southern part of the state. It is very rugged, with valleys and peaks ranging from 3,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation; the average elevation is between 5,000 and 6,000 feet above sea level. Large rivers and tributary streams have cut canyons into the region, and tremendous forces within the earth have raised mountain ranges.

The Basin and Range province in western Utah, otherwise known as the Great Basin, occupies nearly one-third of the state. This region is characterized by sprawling valleys and jutting mountain ranges. Most of this province is an arid or semi-arid region with little rainfall, but some of its valleys are used extensively for farming and grazing, thanks to irrigation systems.

The Rocky Mountain province consists of the Wasatch and Uinta mountain ranges of northern Utah. These 150-mile-long ranges furnish much of the water that supports civilization in Utah. The Wasatch Range is one of the most rugged in the United States; the Uinta range is the only major North American mountain range oriented along an east-west axis. Utah's highest mountain, King's Peak, rises to 13,528 feet in the Uintas.

climate

Utah's weather is usually sunny and mild during the day and cool at night. Mid-summer maximums occasionally rise into the 100s, but low afternoon humidity makes such temperatures more bearable than in the more humid areas of the United States. Average summer humidity generally ranges between 32 and 42 percent in the warmer areas of the state.

Minimum temperatures near zero briefly occur in the metropolitan valleys during most winters, but prolonged periods of cold weather are rare. Due to the high elevation and dry atmosphere, there is usually a wide daily range in temperature during most months of the year.

Most of Utah has four well-defined seasons, usually without marked extremes. In the metropolitan areas, the average annual temperature is 52 degrees Fahrenheit, with the following seasonal averages: Spring, 50 degrees; Summer, 73 degrees; Fall, 53 degrees; and Winter, 32 degrees.

The warmest month of the year is July, which has an average daytime high of 89 degrees F. January, with an average daytime high of 36 degrees F, is the coldest month of the year. The temperature fails to rise above freezing about nineteen days of the year, and it rises to or above 90 degrees F about 26 days of the summer.

it's really a desert

Precipitation in Utah varies greatly, from an average of less than five inches a year on the Great Salt Lake Desert to near 60 inches in some parts of the Wasatch Mountains.

At the Salt Lake International Airport, the average annual precipitation is 15.4 inches, with monthly averages varying from a high of 2 inches in March to a low of 0.1 inches in July. Snowfall averages 54 inches

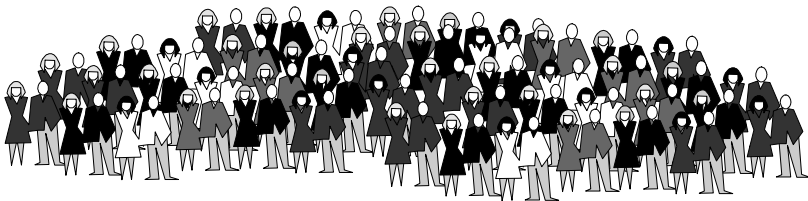
per year. Measurable snow usually falls beginning in November and continues into April. An average of 11.9 inches of snow falls during January, which usually has the heaviest accumulation of the year.

Temperatures generally vary enough during the winter months to prevent build-up of ice on streets and highways. Thus, between storms most thoroughfares are dry and clear. Hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, and other extreme weather conditions seldom occur in Utah. However, the threat of a major earthquake exists.

population

In 1996, Utah celebrated its Centennial. That year also marks another milestone: the state's population surpassed the 2-million mark. Utah is projected to gain another million inhabitants by the year 2017. This would produce an average annual population growth rate of 2.0 percent from 1999 through 2020. During this time a net in-migration of 169,000 is projected. However, net out-migration is also expected to occur at intervals during this period.

The 1999 population increase was 1.9 percent, slightly lower than the average increases observed in the previous five years. In-migration flows from California nearly ceased in 1997 as that state's economy improved significantly, and thus its population outflow away from economic hardships declined.



POPULATION

Utah Population Estimates

Year	July 1st Population	Percent Change	Increase
1960	900,000	3.45	30,000
1961	936,000	4.00	36,000
1962	958,000	2.35	22,000
1963	974,000	1.67	16,000
1964	978,000	0.41	4,000
1965	991,000	1.33	13,000
1966	1,009,000	1.82	18,000
1967	1,019,000	0.99	10,000
1968	1,029,000	0.98	10,000
1969	1,047,000	1.75	18,000
1970	1,066,000	1.81	19,000
1971	1,101,000	3.28	35,000
1972	1,135,000	3.09	34,000
1973	1,170,000	3.08	35,000
1974	1,200,000	2.56	30,000
1975	1,236,000	3.00	36,000
1976	1,275,000	3.16	39,000
1977	1,320,000	3.53	45,000
1978	1,368,000	3.64	48,000
1979	1,420,000	3.80	52,000
1980	1,474,000	3.80	54,000
1981	1,515,000	2.78	41,000
1982	1,558,000	2.84	43,000
1983	1,595,000	2.37	37,000
1984	1,622,000	1.69	27,000
1985	1,643,000	1.29	21,000
1986	1,663,000	1.22	20,000
1987	1,678,000	0.90	15,000
1988	1,690,000	0.72	12,000
1989	1,706,000	0.95	16,000
1990	1,729,000	1.35	23,000
1991	1,775,000	2.66	46,000
1992	1,822,000	2.65	47,000
1993	1,866,000	2.41	44,000
1994	1,916,000	2.68	50,000
1995	1,959,000	2.24	43,000
1996	2,002,000	2.20	43,000
1997	2,049,000	2.30	46,000

Source: Utah Bureau of Health Statistics and Utah Population Estimates

Natural increase is the primary source of population growth in Utah, accounting for nearly 70 percent of the total in the past ten years. Net migration constitutes the remainder. 1999 was the ninth straight year for a net migration increase. For extended periods in its past, the state has been a net exporter of people, unable to absorb its young population into the workforce. But with Utah's strong economy in the 1990s, the state has kept its homegrown talents at home.

we're different

Utah's average household size of 3.06 ranks number one in the nation; Utahns tend to marry at a slightly younger age than the national average. The median age of the State's population is 27; Utah has, by far, the youngest population in the country.

Utah has the nation's highest percentage (88.5) of people living in family households and the highest percentage of children living in married couple families (82.8).

Utah's 1998 labor force participation rate was 72 percent. About 81 percent of the males and 63 percent of the females participate in the labor force. Roughly 60 percent of women with children under the age of six are employed.

The population in Utah is well-educated: 85.1 percent of Utahns have a high school diploma or higher, and 22.3 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher.

Utah's total personal income, as estimated by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, grew by 6.5 percent during 1999, slightly faster than the U.S. growth of 5.8 percent. Utah's estimated per capita income for 1999 is \$23,400. This is only 82 percent of the U.S. average of \$28,518. This disparity is primarily due to (1) the relatively large number of children in Utah, and (2) the relatively low wages received by the workers in Utah.

A more informative economic indicator is the median household money income as estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, which in 1998 was estimated at \$44,300 for Utah and \$38,900 for the U.S. average. How this pans out is that with larger households in Utah, there are more earners per household than on average in the United States.

Another relevant measure is average annual pay of workers covered by unemployment insurance. In 1998, Utah's \$26,900 was only 84 percent of the U.S. average of \$31,900.

transportation

Northern Utah has long been referred to as the "Crossroads of the West" because major East-West (now Interstate 80) and North-South (now Interstate 15) routes intersect in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake International Airport is a ten-minute drive from the city and is the 25th largest airport in the U.S.. The Utah Transit Authority provides bus service for the metropolitan areas and between Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Provo. In addition, a 15-mile north-south light-rail line, dubbed Trax, runs from Sandy in southern Salt Lake County to downtown Salt Lake City. Railroad services include Union Pacific and AMTRAK.

crime

Crime rates in Utah are generally lower than in other parts of the United States. Offenses reported to the police and recorded in the Uniform Crime Reports show that the rate of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) committed in Utah are below the national average. A recent report shows the rate of violent crimes per 100,000 persons to be 314 in Utah compared to the U.S. rate of 566. Fifteen states had lower rates than Utah. Utah also compares favorably to other states for statistics on the number of federal and state prisoners per 10,000 population, with a 1997 rate of 20.7 compared to the U.S. rate of 46.5.

economic activity

Since 1950, Utah's annual nonfarm job growth has averaged 3.6 percent. From 1950 through 1987 there were three periods of four years each that had consecutive annual job growth of 3 percent or greater. A record-breaking period of economic expansion began with 1988 and ran through 1998. Each of these 11 years saw nonfarm job growth of 3 percent or greater. The height of the expansion occurred from 1993 to 1996--four years of job growth each exceeding 5 percent. During this time, Utah added 186,000 new jobs while gaining 180,000 new residents. It is thus evident that a sizeable share of these new jobs were filled by people who were living in Utah in 1992.

Although there are no specific data to support this, it may be concluded that, by 1997, this pool of available labor was about exhausted. Moreover, in 1998 Utah's net in-migrants had slowed to a trickle. It is not surprising, then, that anecdotal evidence of labor shortages in 1997, 1998, and 1999 was abundant. This appears to be a factor in the slowdown of Utah's job growth in 1998 and 1999 (3.0 and 2.4 percent respectively). By comparison, the U.S. 1999 job growth rate was 2.2 percent. In 1999, Utah added 25,000 new jobs, the smallest net gain since 1992.

joblessness staying down

In keeping with Utah's still-thriving economy, unemployment remains low. In fact, the rate in 2000 will likely average about 3.3 percent, which is just above 1997's figure, the lowest since before 1950. Utah's unemployment rate has been under 4.0 since 1993. In 1999, the U.S. rate slipped to 4.2, the lowest level since mid-1969. An average of 40,500 individuals were out of work during 1999, slightly higher than 1998's 39,900.

working in utah

Most Utahns live and work along the Wasatch Front in Weber, Salt Lake, Davis and Utah counties. As the population has increased, commuting in the Salt Lake City area has become a growing concern. Metropolitan Utah has a reliable bus system and Trax, a new 15-mile north-south light-rail line serving Salt Lake County. An east-west line from Salt Lake International Airport to the University of Utah is supposed to be completed by the 2002 Olympics. Nevertheless, most workers drive rather than ride public transportation. Fortunately, reconstruction of I-15 in Salt Lake County (to be completed in 2001) and other highway improvements in Salt Lake, Davis and Utah counties may help alleviate freeway congestion for the next several years.

During 1999, Utah added 25,000 new nonfarm jobs for a growth rate of 2.4 percent. Every major industry division except mining and manufacturing showed growth. The most rapid growth occurred in construction (5.8 percent), followed by services, at 4.7 percent. Services created the largest number of jobs (13,000), which is more than half of Utah's net job increase. Manufacturing's 1,200 net job loss, the first decline since 1991, is attributable to the global economic slowdown, which suppressed demand for Utah's manufactured goods. A modest recovery is anticipated for 2000. Job growth in finance/insurance/real estate, at 2.5 percent, and transportation/communications/utilities, at 1.6 percent, have slowed substantially from the respective 1998 rates. Trade (wholesale plus retail) also experienced 1.7-percent growth, as did government. Federal and state job growth was only about 1 percent; local was 2.3 percent.

a promising future

The employment outlook for Utah is promising. Total nonfarm employment should increase by a net 58,000 new jobs from 1999 through 2001. This averages about 29,000 net new jobs per year or

2.6-percent annual growth. An average of 64,000 job openings (as opposed to newly created jobs) will occur in each of these years. Fifty percent of these openings will occur as workers move from one occupation to another. Over 80 percent of job opportunities and employment will be in Salt Lake, Davis, Utah and Weber counties.

By the year 2003, about 22 percent of all jobs in the state will require at least a bachelor's degree or more, based on a method of assigning training levels to occupations from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This education, training, and experience classification system, when linked with the occupational employment projections for Utah, results in the following percentages of Utah jobs and education, training, and experience requirements: Bachelor's degree or higher - 21 percent; associate degree - 4 percent; post-secondary vocational training - 6 percent; work-related experience - 9 percent; long-term (one year or more) on-the-job training - 11 percent; moderate-term (one month to one year) on-the-job training - 12 percent; and short-term (less than one month) informal on-the-job training - 37 percent.

Utah Labor Market Report (monthly) and semi-annual county newsletters are a source of information about labor market economic activities. You may request copies by calling 801 526-9786, or access them on line at wi.dws.state.ut.us/ then scroll down to *Utah Labor Market Report* or to County Newsletters.

multi-county summaries

Utah has eight multi-county planning districts. Each of these make up a unique economic region. A brief economic summary of each of these areas follows.

◆ Wasatch Front South District

The two counties comprising the Wasatch Front South District are a study in contrasts. With respect to population and economic activity, Salt Lake County comprises over 95 percent of the district. Conversely, Tooele County contains over 90 percent of the land area of

the district. Thus, Tooele County is sparsely settled—its population per square mile is about 5, compared to Salt Lake County's 1,150. In 1999, the district's population was 879,100, or 41 percent of the state's total. Tooele County's population was an estimated 35,800; Salt Lake County's was 843,300.

About 52 percent of Utah's total nonagricultural payroll jobs are in the Wasatch Front South District. In 1999, this district totaled over 542,300 jobs, a 2.4-percent year-over increase of 12,500 positions. Underscoring the importance of Salt Lake County, half of all jobs in Utah are found here. This ratio has held for many decades, and no trends are foreseen that would alter it.

The Wasatch Front South District's unemployment rate is 3.4 percent for 1999, slightly lower than Utah's 3.7 percent and 4.2 percent for the U.S. Salt Lake County's rate is also 3.4, but Tooele County's rate is 5.6 percent. Defense cutbacks in the 1990s left a void in the economy that the is only partially filled.

The 1999 per capita personal income (PCPI) in Salt Lake County is \$27,800. This is 19 percent higher than the state average. Tooele County, on the other hand, has a PCPI of \$17,400, 26 percent below the state average. By comparison, Tooele County's 1990 PCPI was 99 percent of the state average. This is an indication of the impact of the defense cutbacks on Tooele County.

◆ Mountainland District

The three-county Mountainland District is probably the most vibrant and economically robust section of the state. At 3.7 percent, its population grew the fastest of any district from 1998 to 1999. Its 5,400 net in-migrants settled primarily in Utah County, but Summit and Wasatch counties also saw appreciable numbers of net in-migrants. Utah County is the state's second most populous, though at 353,100, remains far behind Salt Lake County. Summit County's 1999 population is 26,500 and Wasatch County's is 13,600.

Businesses related to tourism dominate Summit County's economy, while Wasatch County is becoming more of a bedroom community to Summit, Utah, and Salt Lake counties. Utah County's economy is diversified, but its many computer-related industries provided a strong, if erratic, boost to the economy during the 1990s. From 1998 to 1999, the district saw 3.8-percent growth in the number of jobs; the net change was 6,000.

Unemployment rates in the nonmetropolitan Summit and Wasatch counties, at 5 percent for 1999, are a little high due to their seasonal and service-oriented economies. However, Utah County's 3.2 percent unemployed is almost rock-bottom.

The 1999 per capita personal income (PCPI) in Summit County (\$40,000) is the highest in the state and 171 percent of the Utah average. In fact, Summit is the state's only county with per capita income greater than the U.S. average, and that by 40 percent.

◆ **Wasatch Front North District**

The Wasatch Front North District is comprised of Weber and Davis counties which, along with Salt Lake County, make up the Salt Lake City-Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Morgan County, a rural area east of Davis County, completes the district. Population-wise, Davis County is the largest at 235,400 in 1999 and is the fastest-growing. Weber County has 186,000 inhabitants, and Morgan County is the smallest with 7,200 citizens.

Davis and Weber counties' economies have, in the past, been dominated by Hill Air Force Base and other defense and non-defense federal installations. Sizeable cutbacks to some of these employers in the 1990s stifled the economic growth of the area. Even so, surprising progress occurred, especially in Davis County. Both Davis and Weber counties are growing as a result of urban sprawl flowing out of Salt Lake County. Heavy inter-county commuting flows exist throughout the metropolitan area.

The Wasatch Front North District contained 172,000 nonagricultural jobs in 1999, a 2.3-percent year-over increase. Not surprisingly, unemployment rates in these three counties are generally moderate, but the Davis County rate is usually low. Weber's and Morgan's are typically somewhat higher.

Weber County's PCPI for 1999 stood at \$23,300, right on the Utah average. Davis County's \$22,000 is not appreciably lower, but Morgan County's \$18,100 is only 77 percent of the state average.

◆ **Bear River District**

Box Elder, Cache, and Rich counties comprise the Bear River District, which occupies the northern end of Utah. Cache County's economy dominates this district, with 41,200 nonagricultural jobs. With respect to employment and population, it is the largest non-metropolitan county in the state. Box Elder contains 18,100 nonagricultural positions, while Rich County is very small, with nonfarm employment of only 550. Agriculture remains a vital industry in each of these counties, but other industries in Cache and Box Elder counties have strengthened over the years, providing important economic diversification. However, tourism, with its seasonal and cyclical fluctuations, has been Rich County's lone success at diversification.

Manufacturing and government dominate Cache County's economy, the home of Utah State University. Box Elder has a manufacturing-based economy. Large manufacturers include Cordant Technologies (Thiokol Chemical) and Autoliv (formerly Morton International), with smaller but still significant employment added by La-Z-Boy and Nucor Steel. In 1999, Box Elder County lost about 4 percent of its nonfarm jobs, while Cache and Rich counties made modest gains (2.3 and 3.4 percent, respectively).

In recent years, Cache County's unemployment rate has been the lowest in the state; for 1999 it was 2.7 compared to Utah's 3.7 percent. Rich County's rate was 3.7, while Box Elder's 4.6 percent reflects the slower economic growth of that area.

In 1999, Cache County's PCPI stood at \$19,100, only 82 percent of the state average. Box Elder, with its larger manufacturing base, did slightly better at \$19,600. Rich County's PCPI is \$15,700, only 67 percent of the state average and one of the lowest figures in the state.

Cache County's 1999 population is estimated at 87,400. Box Elder County, with five times the land area of Cache County, has a population of 41,700. Rich County is Utah's third-smallest county populationwise, with 1,800 residents.

◆ **Southwestern District**

Five counties, Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, and Washington, in the southwestern corner of Utah make up the Southwestern District. The district has experienced one of the state's highest employment growth rates during the 1990s. Tourism and recreation are the dominant industries in this district.

Washington County is Utah's second-largest non-metropolitan county economy. Its 31,900 nonfarm jobs in 1999 comprise 60 percent of the district's total. Growth in this county was rapid from 1990 through 1996, but it moderated considerably in the following three years.

Iron County, with 13,600 jobs, is the other large economic area in this district. It followed a similar but somewhat tamer track through the 1990s. Tourism and government are the mainstays of Garfield and Kane counties, while a large hog-farming industry has become Beaver County's recent focus.



With the exception of Garfield County's 8.3 percent, 1999 unemployment rates in this district's counties fall in the narrow range of 3.6 to 4.0 percent.

In all five counties, per capita personal income is below the state average. In descending order, the respective 1999 PCPIs are; Kane County, \$21,800; Washington County, \$19,300; Garfield County, \$18,700; Iron County, \$17,600; Beaver County, \$16,300.

As with employment, Washington County's 1999 population of 81,200 overshadows the totals of the other counties. Iron County follows with 31,500, Kane and Beaver are both about 6,000, and Garfield has 4,600.

◆ **Central District**

The six counties (Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne) comprising the Central District are predominantly rural. Their economic growth rates generally lag behind those observed in the urban settings. Historically, this district has experienced periods of stagnant growth or even outright employment declines. But as Utah grew dramatically during the 1990's, economic growth filtered into this district. Correspondingly, the statewide slowdown since 1998 has hit this area as well. For 1999, job growth was 1.8 percent, somewhat slower than Utah's 2.4 percent. This district accounts for 21,000 of the state's jobs.

Sevier (7,100 jobs) and Sanpete (6,600 jobs) counties are the economic hubs of the district. Government, agricultural production and processing, trade, and services dominate. Millard (3,600 jobs) and Juab (2,500 jobs) counties are centered upon a single town. Wayne (1,000 jobs) and Piute (240 jobs) counties are economically very small. Unemployment rates (1999) range from Sevier County's 4.3 to Piute County's 6.1 percent.

As is characteristic of Utah's rural areas, Central Utah's 1999's PCPI are well below the state average, ranging from 63 percent up to 76 percent of Utah's \$23,400.

The population centers are Sanpete County (21,400) and Sevier County (18,900). Millard County hosts 12,000 residents, and Juab 8,100. Wayne and Piute counties are much smaller with 2,500 and 1,600 residents respectively.

◆ **Southeastern District**

Each of the four counties in the Southeastern District has a rich history of mining, primarily either coal or uranium. As with most economies that are dependent on mineral extraction, these areas have seen many ups and downs. Coal mining is still big business in Carbon and Emery counties, but associated employment is tapering off. Uranium mining and processing employment in Grand and San Juan counties terminated years ago. Grand County has successfully capitalized on its tourism potential and is doing well, but San Juan County has not been so fortunate.

The Southeastern District contains 21,500 nonfarm jobs. Carbon County, despite its dependence on mining, has the district's most diversified economy, with 9,200 jobs in 1999. But net job growth from 1998 was almost nil. Just to the south, Emery County provides 3,700 nonfarm jobs, many in mining and electric power production. This area suffered a net loss of 130 jobs from 1998 to 1999, with another loss likely for 2000. Both Grand and San Juan counties have about 4,300 jobs, but many are relatively low-wage.

All four of the district's counties have relatively high unemployment; the 1999 estimates range between Grand's 6.7 and San Juan's 7.9 percent.

PCPI data for the southeastern counties range widely: from San Juan's \$13,700 (the lowest in Utah) to Grand's \$21,500, one of the highest south of Utah County.

Carbon County has the largest 1999 population at 21,400. This is followed by San Juan with 13,600, Emery 10,900, and Grand 9,100. Only Carbon County gained population in 1999; the other counties saw net losses.

◆ **Uintah Basin District**

The Uintah Basin District, which includes Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties, is Utah's oil producing region. Its fortunes often mirror the fortunes (or misfortunes) of this industry. Job growth during most of the 1990's was generally steady. This has lead to a bit more diverse economy, which helps insulate its fortune from the oil industry.

Uintah is the largest and most diverse county, accounting for 8,800 jobs in 1999. Through the 1990s, its growth has been somewhat erratic. Duchesne, with 4,600 jobs, saw smoother, more rapid growth until 1999, when it suffered a 4-percent loss in jobs. Daggett, Utah's smallest county with respect to employment and population, has only 440 jobs. Its economy is highly seasonal and tourist-based; job growth has been occasionally rapid.

Uintah and Duchesne counties, due to their industrial mix and business cycles, often have high unemployment; but Daggett's is generally low.

Income levels in this rural district are considerably below the state average. PCPI in both Uintah and Duchesne counties is just over \$15,000; in Daggett, \$20,500.

Uintah County's 1999 population stands at 25,000; Duchesne has 14,400, and Daggett 700.

Notes

